

ORIGINAL



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

PCR Docket No. **9547**

MMB Docket No. **1001-0760**

Application of: **Hoffman**

Group Art Unit: **2173**

Serial No. **09/818,923**

Examiner: **K. Vu**

Filed: **March 27, 2001**

For: **Signature Capture Terminal**

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October 4, 2004

Date of Signature

BRIEF ON APPEAL

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an appeal under 37 CFR § 1.191 to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences of the United States Patent and Trademark Office from the final rejection of the claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-31 of the above-identified patent

application. These claims were indicated as finally rejected in an Office Action dated May 4, 2004. Three copies of the brief are filed herewith, together with the \$340.00 fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(c). Also, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Account No. 13-0014, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

(1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

NCR Corporation of Dayton, Ohio is the assignee of this patent application, and the real party in interest.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no appeals or interferences related to this patent application (serial no. 09/818,923).

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-31 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-31 are finally rejected.

Claims 10-14 and 19-31 are being appealed, and are shown in the Appendix attached to this Appeal Brief.

Claims 1-6, 8-9, and 16-18 are not being appealed.

(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Appellants have filed no amendments subsequent to the final rejection contained in the Office Action mailed May 4, 2004.

(5) SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to a signature capture terminal 30. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 6, lines 1-4; Figs. 1-2.) The signature capture device 30 includes a signature capture screen 34 operative to graphically receive a signature of a user. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 6, lines 8-14; Figs. 1-2.) The signature capture device 30 further includes an audio generator 58 operative to produce audio feedback to the user in direct response to receipt of the signature. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 7, line 3 through page 8, line 14; page 10, lines 14-19; Fig. 2.) The audio feedback is correlated to graphic input of the received signature. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 8, lines 4-14; page 15, last line through page 16, line 10.) The audio feedback includes an audible sound having a characteristic thereof that varies in relation to the graphic input of the received signature. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 8, lines 4-6.) The characteristic includes one of frequency, pitch, and amplitude. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 8, lines 8-9.)

The present invention further relates to a method of operating a signature capture terminal 62 having an input device 70. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 10, second to last line through page 11, line 8; Figs. 3-4.)

The method includes entering a written signature with a stylus 74 into the input device 70 of the signature capture terminal 62, and generating signature data in response thereto. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 12, last three lines; Figs. 3-4.) The method further includes storing the signature data in a memory of the signature capture terminal 62. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 13, lines 1-3.) Moreover, the method further includes generating audio feedback in response to the entering step, the audio feedback having characteristics correlated to attributes of the written signature. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 10, second to last line through page 11, line 3; page 8, lines 4-14; page 15, last line through page 16, line 10.) At least one of the attributes of the written signature includes horizontal position of the written signature on a signature capture area of the input device 70. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 8, lines 10-14.) Further, at least one of the attributes of the written signature includes vertical position of the written signature on a signature capture area of the input device 70. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 8, lines 10-14.)

The present invention also relates to a method of operating a signature capture terminal 62 having an input device 70. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 10, second to last line through page 11, line 8; Figs. 3-4.) The method includes entering a written signature with a stylus 74 into the input device 70 of the signature capture terminal 62. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 12, last line; Figs. 3-4.) The method further includes displaying a visual image of the written signature on a display device of the

signature capture terminal 62. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 6, lines 13-14; page 11, last line through page 12, line 2.) Moreover, the method further includes generating audio feedback in response to the entering step, the audio feedback having characteristics correlated to attributes of the written signature. (See, e.g., Appellants' specification at page 10, second to last line through page 11, line 3; page 8, lines 4-14; page 15, last line through page 16, line 10.)

(6) ISSUE

Whether claims 10-14 and 19-31 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Deutsch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,194) in view of Blumstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,750,937).

(7) GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Claims 10-14 and 19-31 do not stand or fall together.

Claims 19, 24, 25, 26, and 31 form a first separately patentable group that is argued independently of the other claims for purposes of this appeal only.

Claims 20 and 27 form a second separately patentable group that is argued independently of the other claims for purposes of this appeal only.

Claims 21 and 28 form a third separately patentable group that is argued independently of the other claims for purposes of this appeal only.

Claims 22 and 29 form a fourth separately patentable group that is argued independently of the other claims for purposes of this appeal only.

Claims 23 and 30 form a fifth separately patentable group that is argued independently of the other claims for purposes of this appeal only.

Claims 10, 13, and 14 form a sixth separately patentable group that is argued independently of the other claims for purposes of this appeal only.

Claim 11 forms a seventh separately patentable group that is argued independently of the other claims for purposes of this appeal only.

Claim 12 forms an eighth separately patentable group that is argued independently of the other claims for purposes of this appeal only.

(8) ARGUMENT

Claims 10-14 and 19-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Deutsch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,194) in view of Blumstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,750,937). Appellant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection by the Board of Appeals.

First Claim Grouping (Claims 19, 24, 25, 26, and 31)

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 19

Claim 19 reads as follows:

19. A method of operating a signature capture terminal having an input device, comprising the steps of:
entering a written signature with a stylus into said input device of said signature capture terminal, and generating signature data in response thereto;
storing said signature data in a memory of said signature capture terminal; and
generating audio feedback in response to said entering step, said audio feedback having characteristics correlated to attributes of said written signature.

Proposed Combination of Deutsch and Blumstein

Presumably in an attempt to combine Deutsch and Blumstein in order to arrive at the invention of claim 19, the following was stated in the May 4, 2004

Office Action at page 3, line 14 through page 4, line 4:

Deutsch teaches a method of operating a signature capture terminal having an input device (terminal 205 in Fig. 1), comprising the steps of entering a written signature with a stylus (stylus pen attached to terminal 205 in Fig. 1) into said input device of said signature capture terminal (col 3, lines 12-16), and generating signature data in response thereto (inherent); storing said signature data in a memory of said signature capture terminal (inherent for further verification). Deutsch does not teach the producing audio feedback in response to said entering step. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Blumstein. Blumstein teaches the providing a terminal for visually impaired individuals which comprises the audio feedback which is correlated to the received input (col 2, lines 22-28).

It would have been obvious ... to modify the terminal taught by Deutsch to include audio feedback taught by Blumstein.

The audio feedback of Blumstein identified by the Examiner in the 5/4/04

Office Action is set forth below (see Blumstein at column 2, lines 18-28):

[T]he electronic teller prompts or responds to user actions with sound cues or "beeps" in a similar way that current ATMs audibly interact with individuals who are not visually impaired. Thus, to one situated away from the user, the sounds are similar to those transmitted during operation in the conventional mode. The visually impaired user may enter the visually impaired person (VIP) mode by simply touching or tapping the upper right quadrant twice in succession, each tap confirmed by a beep and successful transition to the next step confirmed by a "good transition" sound.

Blumstein appears to merely disclose providing audible sounds to acknowledge actuation of various user inputs in a similar way to current ATMs. If one were to provide Blumstein's type of audio feedback in the system of Deutsch, then the resulting Deutsch/Blumstein system would include audio feed that includes sound cues or "beeps" in a similar way to current ATMs.

However, this resulting system does not arrive at Appellant's invention of claim 19. Significantly, claim 19 does not merely recite generally providing audio feedback in response to a user writing a signature on a signature capture device. Rather, claim 19 requires "generating audio feedback in response to said entering step, *said audio feedback having characteristics correlated to attributes of said written signature.*" For example, some of the claimed audio feedback *characteristics* may be frequency or amplitude, and these characteristics are *correlated* to the claimed *attributes* of the written signature, which may be horizontal position of the written signature or vertical position of the written

signature. (See Appellant's specification at page 8, line 4 through page 9, line 17.)

It is presumably the Examiner's position that Blumstein's teaching of the concept "if the input is received, the audio feedback is provided" (see 5/4/04 Office Action at page 5, lines 19-21) equates with the following limitation of claim 19: "*said audio feedback having characteristics correlated to attributes of said written signature.*" However, it does not. For example, there are no *attributes* of Blumstein's written signature to which any *audio feedback characteristics* are correlated. Blumstein's audio feedback is the same for any and all signature input, irrespective of the attributes of the signature input.

Thus, the proposed combination Deutsch and Blumstein does not arrive at the invention of claim 19. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the proposed combination of Deutsch and Blumstein does not establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 with respect to the invention of Appellant's claim 19. Thus, the Board of Appeals is respectfully requested to reverse the rejection of claim 19.

Discussion Re: Patentability of Claims 24-25

Each of claims 24-25 depends directly from claim 19. As a result, each of claims 24-25 are allowable for the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 19.

Discussion Re: Patentability of Claim 26

The discussion relating to the patentability of claim 19 is relevant to the patentability of claim 26. Thus, claim 26 is believed to be allowable over the cited art.

Discussion Re: Patentability of Claim 31

Claim 31 depends directly from claim 26. As a result, claim 31 is allowable for the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 26.

Second Claim Grouping (Claims 20 and 27)

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 20

Claim 20 depends directly from claim 19. As a result, claim 20 is allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 19.

Moreover, claim 20 recites the following limitation:

wherein at least one of said attributes of said written signature includes horizontal position of said written signature on a signature capture area of said input device.

Thus, as claimed in claim 20, the audio feedback has characteristics correlated to attributes of the written signature, and one of these attributes includes horizontal position of said written signature on a signature capture area of said input device.

In supporting the rejection of claim 20, the Examiner stated that it is inherent that the signature capture area of Deutsch captures the horizontal

position of the written signature. (See 5/4/04 Office Action at page 4, lines 6-8.) However, there are no characteristics of the audio feedback of the Deutsch (nor Blumstein) that is correlated to this particular attribute (i.e. horizontal position of the written signature in Deutsch). Thus, the proposed combination of Deutsch and Blumstein further does not arrive at the invention of Appellant's claim 20. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has further not been established with regard to the Appellant's invention of claim 20.

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 27

The discussion relating to the patentability of claim 20 is relevant to the patentability of claim 27. As a result, claim 27 is allowable over the cited art. Moreover, claim 27 depends directly from claim 26. As a result, claim 27 is further allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 26.

Third Claim Grouping (Claims 21 and 28)

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 21

Claim 21 depends directly from claim 19. As a result, claim 21 is allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 19.

Moreover, claim 21 recites the following limitation:

at least one of said attributes of said written signature includes vertical position of said written signature on a signature capture area of said input device.

Thus, as claimed in claim 21, the audio feedback has characteristics correlated to attributes of the written signature, and one of these attributes includes vertical position of said written signature on a signature capture area of said input device.

In supporting the rejection of claim 21, the Examiner stated that it is inherent that the signature capture area of Deutsch captures the vertical position of the written signature. (See 5/4/04 Office Action at page 4, lines 6-8.) However, there are no characteristics of the audio feedback of the Deutsch (nor Blumstein) that is correlated to this particular attribute (i.e. vertical position of the written signature in Deutsch). Thus, the proposed combination of Deutsch and Blumstein further does not arrive at the invention of Appellant's claim 21. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has further not been established with regard to the Appellant's invention of claim 21.

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 28

The discussion relating to the patentability of claim 21 is relevant to the patentability of claim 28. As a result, claim 28 is allowable over the cited art. Moreover, claim 28 depends directly from claim 26. As a result, claim 28 is further allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 26.

Fourth Claim Grouping (Claims 22 and 29)

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 22

Claim 22 depends directly from claim 19. As a result, claim 22 is allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 19.

Moreover, claim 22 recites the following limitations:

said audio feedback generating step includes the step of generating an audio signal in response to said entering step, and
at least one of said characteristics of said audio feedback includes frequency of said audio signal.

Thus, as claimed in claim 22, the audio feedback has characteristics correlated to attributes of the written signature, and one of these characteristics includes frequency of said audio signal. In supporting the rejection of claim 22, the Examiner stated that Blumstein teaches that audio feedback includes frequency of said audio signal. (See 5/4/04 Office Action at page 4, lines 9-10.) However, the frequency of the signal in Blumstein is not correlated in any manner to the attributes of the written signal. Thus, the proposed combination of Deutsch and Blumstein further does not arrive at the invention of Appellant's claim 22.

Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has further not been established with regard to the Appellant's invention of claim 22.

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 29

The discussion relating to the patentability of claim 22 is relevant to the patentability of claim 29. As a result, claim 29 is allowable over the cited art. Moreover, claim 29 depends directly from claim 26. As a result, claim 29 is further allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 26.

Fifth Claim Grouping (Claims 23 and 30)

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 23

Claim 23 depends directly from claim 19. As a result, claim 23 is allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 19.

Moreover, claim 23 recites the following limitations:

said audio feedback generating step includes the step of generating an audio signal in response to said entering step, and
at least one of said characteristics of said audio feedback includes amplitude of said audio signal.

Thus, as claimed in claim 23, the audio feedback has characteristics correlated to attributes of the written signature, and one of these characteristics includes amplitude of said audio signal. In supporting the rejection of claim 23, the Examiner stated that Blumstein teaches that audio feedback includes amplitude of said audio signal. (See 5/4/04 Office Action at page 4, lines 11-12.)

However, the amplitude of the signal in Blumstein is not correlated in any manner to the attributes of the written signal. Thus, the proposed combination of Deutsch and Blumstein further does not arrive at the invention of Appellant's claim 23. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has further not been established with regard to the Appellant's invention of claim 23.

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 30

The discussion relating to the patentability of claim 23 is relevant to the patentability of claim 30. As a result, claim 30 is allowable over the cited art. Moreover, claim 30 depends directly from claim 26. As a result, claim 30 is further allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 26.

Sixth Claim Grouping (Claims 10, 13, and 14)

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 10

Claim 10 reads as follows:

10. A signature capture terminal comprising:
a signature capture screen operative to graphically receive a signature of a user; and
an audio generator operative to produce audio feedback to the user in direct response to receipt of the signature, the audio feedback correlated to graphic input of the received signature.

Proposed Combination of Deutsch and Blumstein

Presumably in an attempt to combine Deutsch and Blumstein in order to arrive at the invention of claim 10, the following was stated in the May 4, 2004

Office Action at page 3, lines 14-20:

Deutsch teaches a signature capture terminal 205 comprising a signature capture area operative to graphically receive a signature of a user (col 3, lines 12-16). Deutsch does not teach the producing audio feedback in response to receipt of user input. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Blumstein. Blumstein teaches the providing a terminal for visually impaired individuals which comprises the audio feedback which is correlated to the received input (col 2, lines 22-28).

It would have been obvious ... to modify the terminal [of] Deutsch to include audio feedback taught by Blumstein

The audio feedback of Blumstein identified by the Examiner in the 5/4/03

Office Action is set forth below (see Blumstein at column 2, lines 18-28):

[T]he electronic teller prompts or responds to user actions with sound cues or "beeps" in a similar way that current ATMs audibly interact with individuals who are not visually impaired. Thus, to one situated away from the user, the sounds are similar to those transmitted during operation in the conventional mode. The visually impaired user may enter the visually impaired person (VIP) mode by simply touching or tapping the upper right quadrant twice in succession, each tap confirmed by a beep and successful transition to the next step confirmed by a "good transition" sound.

Blumstein appears to merely disclose providing audible sounds to acknowledge actuation of various user inputs in a similar way to current ATMs. If one were to provide Blumstein's type of audio feedback in the system of Deutsch, then the resulting Deutsch/Blumstein system would include audio feed that includes sound cues or "beeps" in a similar way to current ATMs.

However, this resulting system does not arrive at Appellant's invention of claim 10. Indeed, claim 10 does not merely recite generally providing audio feedback in response to a user writing a signature on a signature capture device. Rather, claim 10 requires "an audio generator operative to produce audio feedback ..., the audio feedback [being] *correlated* to graphic input of the received signature." Neither Deutsch nor Blumstein discloses any correlation of its audio feedback to the graphic input of the received signature.

It is presumably the Examiner's position that Blumstein's teaching of the concept "if the input is received, the audio feedback is provided" (see 5/4/04 Office Action at page 5, lines 19-21) equates with the following limitation of claim 19: "*the audio feedback correlated to graphic input of the received signal.*" However, Blumstein discloses no correlation of its audio feedback to its graphic input of its received signal. Indeed, Blumstein's audio feedback is the same for any and all signature input.

Thus, proposed combination Deutsch and Blumstein does not arrive at the invention of claim 10. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the proposed combination of Deutsch and Blumstein does not establish a prima facie case of

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 with respect to the invention of Appellant's claim 10.

Discussion Re: Patentability of Claims 13-14

Each of claims 13-14 depends directly from claim 10. As a result, each of claims 13-14 are allowable for the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 10.

Seventh Claim Grouping (Claim 11)

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 11

Claim 11 depends directly from claim 10. As a result, claim 11 is allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 10.

Moreover, claim 11 recites the following limitation:

wherein the audio feedback comprises an audible sound having a characteristic thereof that varies in relation to the graphic input of the received signature.

Thus, as claimed in claim 11, the audio feedback is correlated to graphic input of the received signature, and the audio feedback comprises an audible sound having a characteristic thereof that varies in relation to the graphic input of the received signature.

In supporting the rejection of claim 11, the Examiner stated that Blumstein teaches that the audio signal varies in correlation to the input from users. (See 5/4/04 Office Action at page 2, last two lines.) However, Blumstein does not

disclose generation of an audible sound having a characteristic that *varies* in relation to the graphic input of the received signal. Rather, Blumstein generates an audible sound if input is received; else no audible sound is generated. No varying of a characteristic of the audible sound is disclosed, much less in relation to the graphic input of the received signal. Thus, the proposed combination of Deutsch and Blumstein further does not arrive at the invention of Appellant's claim 11. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has further not been established with regard to the Appellant's invention of claim 11.

Eighth Claim Grouping (Claim 12)

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 12

Claim 12 depends directly from claim 11. As a result, claim 12 is allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 11.

Moreover, claim 12 recites the following limitation:

wherein the characteristic comprises one of frequency, pitch, and amplitude.

Thus, as claimed in claim 12, the audio feedback is correlated to graphic input of the received signature, and the audio feedback comprises an audible sound having a characteristic thereof that varies in relation to the graphic input of the received signature, and further the characteristic comprises one of frequency, pitch, and amplitude.

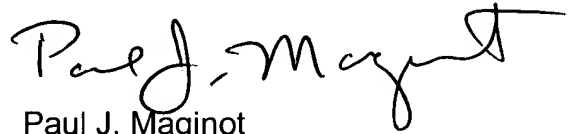
In supporting the rejection of claim 12, the Examiner stated that Blumstein teaches that a characteristic of audio signal is pitch. (See 5/4/04 Office Action at page 3, lines 1-2.) However, Blumstein does not disclose generation of an audible sound that has a characteristic that *varies* in relation to the graphic input of the received signal. Rather, Blumstein generates an audible sound if input is received; else no audible sound is generated. No varying of a frequency, pitch or amplitude of an audible sound is disclosed, much less in relation to the graphic input of the received signal. Thus, the proposed combination of Deutsch and Blumstein further does not arrive at the invention of Appellant's claim 12. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has further not been established with regard to the Appellant's invention of claim 12.

(9) CONCLUSION

Claims 10-14 and 19-31 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Deutsch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,194) in view of Blumstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,750,937), and the Board of Appeals is respectfully requested to reverse the rejection of claims 10-14 and 19-31.

Respectfully submitted,

MAGINOT, MOORE & BECK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Maginot", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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October 4, 2004

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(10) APPENDIX

10. A signature capture terminal comprising:

a signature capture screen operative to graphically receive a signature of a user; and

an audio generator operative to produce audio feedback to the user in direct response to receipt of the signature, the audio feedback correlated to graphic input of the received signature.

11. The signature capture terminal of claim 10, wherein the audio feedback comprises an audible sound having a characteristic thereof that varies in relation to the graphic input of the received signature.

12. The signature capture terminal of claim 11, wherein the characteristic comprises one of frequency, pitch, and amplitude.

13. The signature capture terminal of claim 10, wherein the audio feedback is provided as secure audio.

14. The signature capture terminal of claim 10, further comprising:
a disability access device operable to receive a PIN; and
wherein the audio generator is operative to provide further audio feedback corresponding to input of the PIN.

19. A method of operating a signature capture terminal having an input device, comprising the steps of:

entering a written signature with a stylus into said input device of said signature capture terminal, and generating signature data in response thereto;
storing said signature data in a memory of said signature capture terminal;
and

generating audio feedback in response to said entering step, said audio feedback having characteristics correlated to attributes of said written signature.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of said attributes of said written signature includes horizontal position of said written signature on a signature capture area of said input device.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of said attributes of said written signature includes vertical position of said written signature on a signature capture area of said input device.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein:
said audio feedback generating step includes the step of generating an audio signal in response to said entering step, and
at least one of said characteristics of said audio feedback includes frequency of said audio signal.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein:

said audio feedback generating step includes the step of generating an audio signal in response to said entering step, and

at least one of said characteristics of said audio feedback includes amplitude of said audio signal.

24. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of displaying a visual image of said written signature with a display device in response to said entering step.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein said input device is selected from the group consisting of: a touch screen input device, a sonar screen input device, and a pressure sensitive transducer input device.

26. A method of operating a signature capture terminal having an input device, comprising the steps of:

entering a written signature with a stylus into said input device of said signature capture terminal;

displaying a visual image of said written signature on a display device of said signature capture terminal; and

generating audio feedback in response to said entering step, said audio feedback having characteristics correlated to attributes of said written signature.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of said attributes of said written signature includes horizontal position of said written signature on a signature capture area of said input device.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of said attributes of said written signature includes vertical position of said written signature on a signature capture area of said input device.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein:

said audio feedback generating step includes the step of generating an audio signal in response to said entering step, and

at least one of said characteristics of said audio feedback includes frequency of said audio signal.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein:

said audio feedback generating step includes the step of generating an audio signal in response to said entering step, and

at least one of said characteristics of said audio feedback includes amplitude of said audio signal.

31. The method of claim 26, wherein said input device is selected from the group consisting of: a touch screen input device, a sonar screen input device, and a pressure sensitive transducer input device.